

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Original) A flame retardant composition comprising:
  - a. a polyolefin polymer;
  - b. a synthetic magadiite; and
  - c. a flame retardant.
2. (Original) The flame retardant composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyolefin polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene polymers and polypropylene polymers.
3. (Original) The flame retardant composition of Claim 1 wherein the synthetic magadiite is platy.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Original) The flame retardant composition of Claim 3 wherein the synthetic magadiite is treated with an organic cation.
7. (Canceled).
8. (Original) The flame retardant composition of Claim 1 wherein the flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of halogenated flame retardants and metal hydroxides.
9. (Canceled).

10. (Original) The flame retardant composition of Claim 8 wherein the flame retardant is a metal hydroxide selected from the group consisting of aluminum trihydroxide and magnesium dihydroxide.

11. (Original) The flame retardant composition of Claim 10 wherein the surface of the metal hydroxide is coated with a material selected from the group consisting of silanes, titanates, zirconates, carboxylic acids, and maleic anhydride-grafted polymers.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) A flame retardant composition comprising:

- a. a polyolefin polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene polymers and polypropylene polymers;
- b. a synthetic magadiite containing more than 50 percent by weight of synthetic platy magadiite; and
- c. a metal hydroxide selected from the group consisting of aluminum trihydroxide and magnesium dihydroxide.

15. (Currently Amended) A coating prepared from the flame retardant composition of Claim 1 or Claim 14.

16. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant wire or cable construction prepared by applying the coating of Claim 15 over a wire or cable.